

## **DADDY, I CAN'T!**

### **Intent of the Story**

- ✓ *Alone, we can do nothing; with God we can do all.*
- ✓ *Human efforts and cooperation are wanted, but not enough.*
- ✓ *Value of prayer of petition*

Once upon a time, a gentleman and his little son were trimming the garden lawn of their cozy bungalow. . Right in the middle of the lawn there was a big stone. Daddy told his little son:

"Johnny, darling, roll this stone out of the lawn." Little Johnny tried very, very hard to roll the stone out, but tried as much as he did, he could not manage even to move the stone one inch. In despair the child cried out: "Dad, I can't, I can't roll it out"

Daddy insisted: "Of course, darling, if you try all possible means" you will move the stone away

With renewed efforts, the child tried and tried again, but to no avail. Finally, in tears, Johnny: cried: "Dad, I can't. I can't. I did all I could."

Sweetly, lovingly and encouragingly, Dad said: "Yes, son, you tried very hard to move the stone out of the lawn, but still you have forgotten to do one thing. If you do that, you will succeed."

Eagerly, the child asked: "Dad, what's that thing?" With a smile and a winning face, Dad replied: "Do you see me here, standing next to you? I am most willing to help you to roll the stone out, yet you did not ask me to give you a hand. Ask me and you will see what happens."

The child exclaimed: "Then, Dad, help me to roll the stone out!"

Then, both father and child putting their shoulders together rolled the stone out of the lawn. In delight Johnny exclaimed: "Daddy, we did it! We did it!"

### **Points for Reflection and Discussion**

- What lessons can we learn from the story?
- Can we, through our human efforts, come closer to God? Why?
- Are our human efforts necessary? Why? Are they sufficient? Why?
- What's the value of our human efforts to attain salvation?
- What do we mean by prayers of petition and prayers of intercession? How efficacious are they?
- Explain the following sentences
  - Away from God, we can do nothing.

- With God we can do everything. "I can do all things with him who strengthens me"  
*(St. Paul)*
- If we attempt to carry our spiritual and moral burdens all by ourselves will be crushed. Yet, God is always close at hand. He is just waiting for us to ask his help.
- If we think that our good deeds are "ours" we are deceived by our pride.
- Our good deeds first of all, are God's, next ours.
- In our dealings with God, we have to try as hard as if all success would depend on our efforts, and at the same time, trust God so firmly, as if all success would be His alone!
- Mention some Gospel Passages where we learn that what we cannot do alone, we can do it with Jesus' help. For instance:
  - ✓ The Miraculous catch of fish.
  - ✓ The Multiplication of loaves and fish.
  - ✓ Turning water into wine.